

Claim Amendments

Please amend the claims as set forth in the following listing. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims for the present application:

1. (Original) A probiotic tablet comprising a probiotic micro-organism and other nutritionally active ingredients, the tablet comprising at least two zones, a first of said zones comprising said probiotic micro-organism, and a second of said zones comprising at least one said other active ingredient kept separated from the probiotic micro-organism of said first zone, the water activity in said probiotic micro-organism containing first zone being no greater than 0.2 and the water content of said tablet being no less than 0.2% by weight.
2. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first zone contains also selenium as a said at least one other active ingredient.
3. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of iron.
4. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of copper.
5. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of vitamin B6.
6. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of vitamin C.
7. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of zinc.

8. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of manganese.
9. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of chromium.
10. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said first zone is free from amounts deleterious to the viability of the probiotic micro-organisms of pantothenic acid or its salts.
11. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said second zone contains iron as at least one said other active ingredients.
12. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said second zone contains vitamin B6 as at least one said other active ingredient.
13. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said second zone contains vitamin C as at least one said other active ingredient.
14. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said second zone contains copper as at least one said other active ingredient.
15. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said second zone contains manganese as at least one said other active ingredient.
16. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said second zone contains pantothenic acid or a salt thereof as at least one said other active ingredient.
17. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said second zone contains zinc as at least one said other active ingredient.

18. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said second zone contains chromium as at least one said other active ingredient.

19. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said second zone contains any two or more of iron, vitamin B6, vitamin C, pantothenic acid or a salt thereof, zinc, copper, chromium and manganese, each as at least one said other active ingredient.

20. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the probiotic micro-organism is mixed with a desiccant carrier material serving to reduce the water activity of the zone containing the probiotic micro-organism.

21. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the second zone contains a desiccant carrier material serving to reduce the water activity of the zone containing the probiotic micro-organism.

22. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~claim 20~~ claim 1 ~~or claim 21~~, wherein the probiotic micro-organism is mixed with a desiccant carrier material serving to reduce the water activity of the zone containing the probiotic micro-organism or wherein the second zone contains a desiccant carrier material serving to reduce the water activity of the zone containing the probiotic micro-organism, and wherein said desiccant material comprises at least one of the carboxymethylcellulose, colloidal silica, polyvinylpyrrolidone, starch, gelatine, hydroxypropylcellulose – low-substituted, microcrystalline cellulose, fumed silicon dioxide, sodium croscarmellose, crospovidone, povidone, magnesium aluminum silicate, methylcellulose, sodium alginate, sodium starch glyconate, gelatine, pregelatinized starch, or sorbitol.

23. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, having a multilayer structure comprising at least two layers, one of said layers constituting said first zone and another of said layers constituting said second zone.

24. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 23, wherein said layer constituting said first zone is free of encapsulated iron.

25. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in claim 23 ~~or claim 24~~, wherein said layer constituting said first zone is free of encapsulated zinc.
26. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 23 ~~to 25~~, wherein said layer constituting said first zone is free of encapsulated copper.
27. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 23 ~~to 26~~, wherein said layer constituting said first zone contains encapsulated vitamin B1.
28. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 23 ~~to 27~~, wherein said layer constituting said first zone contains encapsulated vitamin B6.
29. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 23 ~~to 28~~, wherein said layer constituting said second zone contains encapsulated zinc.
30. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 23 ~~to 29~~, wherein said layer constituting said first zone is contains encapsulated manganese.
31. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 23 ~~to 30~~, wherein said layer constituting said first zone contains encapsulated vitamin A, D, E, B12 or B2.
32. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 22~~, having a multitude of granules constituting said first zone surrounded by a matrix, and wherein said matrix constitutes a second zone or wherein said matrix also contains a multitude of granules constituting said second zone.
33. (Currently amended) A table as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the water content of the tablet is at least 1% by weight.
34. (Currently amended) A table as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the water content of the tablet is at least 2% by weight.
35. (Currently amended) A table as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the water content of the tablet is at least 3% by weight.

36. (Currently amended) A table as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the water content of the tablet is no more than 4% by weight.
37. (Currently amended) A table as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the water content of the tablet is no more than 5% by weight.
38. (Currently amended) A table as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the water content of the tablet is no more than 6% by weight.
39. (Currently amended) A table as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the water content of the tablet is no more than 7% by weight.
40. (Currently amended) A table as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the water activity of said first zone is no greater than 0.15.
41. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 40, wherein the water activity of said first zone is no greater than 0.1.
42. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 41, wherein the water activity of said first zone is no greater than 0.05.
43. (Original) A tablet as claimed in claim 42, wherein the water activity of said first zone is no greater than 0.02.
44. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the water activity of the tablet is below 0.15.
45. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said first zone is separated from said second zone by a water excluding barrier material.
46. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the tablet is surrounded by a water excluding material.

47. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, stored in a container containing a desiccant for absorbing water so as to reduce the water activity in the areas surrounding said tablet, and/or containing an oxygen scavenging agent and/or containing an inert gas atmosphere.

48. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 45 to 47, wherein a said barrier material is a fat or wax based barrier material.

49. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein said first zone contains also one or more of iodine, magnesium, nicotinamide and folic acid as a said at least one other active ingredient.

50. (Currently amended) A tablet as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein upon immersion in water a first of said zones disintegrates at a faster rate than a second of said zones such that the time for disintegration of said faster disintegrating zone as a percentage of the total time for disintegration of the faster and the slower disintegrating zones is no more than 50%.